1	2	3	4
8.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), New Delhi	4736	2744
9.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), New Delhi	42	NIL

Amendment in Human Organ Transplantation Act

*138. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce any amendment in the existing law to provide for more stringent punishment for illegal kidney transplant;

(b) the details of the proposed amendment, if any;

(c) whether the proposed bill to regulate clinical establishments which is presently before the Standing Committee would also deal with the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Honorable High court of Delhi in CWP No. 813/2004 *vide* its order dated 06.09.2004 had set up a Committee to examine the provisions of Tansplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995. The report was submitted on 25.05.2005. A National Consultation was held on 18.05.2007 and the report was submitted in the second fortnight of August, 2007. The recommended changes required amendment in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder. These changes are intended to facilitate genuine cases, increase transparency in transplantation procedures and to provide deterrent penalties for violation of the law. In so far as the Act is concerned, the following amendments have been proposed:

(i) to empower Union Territories, specially Government of NCT of Delhi to have their own appropriate authority instead of DGHS and/or Additonal DG (Hospitals).

(ii) To make the punishments under the Act harsh and cognizable for the illegal transplantation activities to deter the offenders from committing this crime.

(iii) To provide for registration of the centres for removal of organs from the cadavers and brain stem dead patients for harvesting of organs instead of registration of centres for transplantations only.

(iv) To allow swap operations between the related donor and recipients who do not match themselves but match with other similar donors/recipients.

Sale/purchase of human organs is already prohibited under Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Appropriate authorities established under this Act are responsible and empowered to check the illegal activities of human organs trafficking.

(c) and (d) A Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill 2007 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 30.08.2007. The Bill seeks to provide for registration and regulation

of clinical establishments in the country. National Council for clinical establishments has been set up to determine the standards for clinical establishments, classify the clinical establishment into different categories, develop minimum standards and their periodic review, compile, maintain and update a national register of clinical establishments, perform any other function determined by the Central Government, from time to time.

Modest growth in agriculture and allied services

*139. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by the Central Statistical Organization, there is modest growth in agriculture and allied services during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for low growth in the production of foodgrains during 2007-08; and

(d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per Advance Estimates of National Income 2007-08 by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) released on 7th February, 2008, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors during the year 2007-08 in the country measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices (1999-2000) is estimated at 2.6 per cent.

(c) As per second advance estimates, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 is estimated at 219.32 million tonnes as compared to 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07, registering an increase of 2.04 million tonnes.

(d) Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, recently, the Government has taken following steps:

- Launched the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs. 4,882 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to produce additional 10 million tonnes of rice. 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan period which aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Plan period, through incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector.
- Established National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to assist and support in planning and implementation of programmes in the rainfed areas.
- National Horticulture Mission is under implementation.
- Provided additional financial resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.
- National Policy for Farmers, 2007 was launched in November, 2007.